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## Anti-Gridlock Wrench

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### Field of Invention

4 The present invention relates to an anti-gridlock wrench.

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### Background of Invention

7 Taiwanese Patent Publication No. 380471 discloses a conventional  
8 wrench including an annular head 20 and a grip 21 extending from the  
9 annular head 20. The annular head 20 defines a space 22, a recess 23  
10 communicated with the space 22, a hole 24 communicated with the recess  
11 23, a hole 25 co-centrally communicated with the hole 24 and a hole 26  
12 eccentrically communicated with the hole 24. The space 22 partially  
13 overlaps the hole 24. A clutch is put in the recess 23. The clutch  
14 includes two claws 40 and a spring 43 between the claws 40. Each of  
15 the claws 40 includes a toothed face 41 and a rod 42. An annular gear  
16 30 is put in the space 22. The annular gear 30 includes a toothed  
17 internal face 31 for engagement with a nut or a head of a bolt and a  
18 toothed external face 33 for engagement with the toothed face 41 of one  
19 of the claws 40. A positioning device 60 is put in the hole 26. The  
20 positioning device 60 includes a spring 61 and a ball detent 62. A disc  
21 50 is put in the hole 24. The disc 50 includes a central hole 51 through  
22 which a bolt is driven into the hole 25. A recess 52 and two recesses 53  
23 are defined in a lower face of the disc 50. The rods 42 are put in the  
24 recess 52. The recess 52 includes two opposite walls in contact with the  
25 rods 42. The ball detent 62 can be put in one of the recesses 53. A

1 handle 54 is secured to the disc 50. However, the annular gear 30 is  
2 likely to escape the space 22 since it is retained only by means of a  
3 portion of the disc 50. Moreover, the claws 40 may stick to the annular  
4 gear 30 because of dirt, grease or rust.

5

6 The present invention is therefore intended to obviate or at least alleviate  
7 the problems encountered in prior art.

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9 **Summary of Invention**

10 The primary objective of the present invention is to provide an  
11 anti-gridlock wrench.

12

13 According to the present invention, an anti-gridlock wrench includes a  
14 handle, a clutch, a detent, a controller, a gear and a C-ring. The handle  
15 includes an annular head defining a circular space, a pothole not  
16 overlapping the circular space, a channel for communicating the circular  
17 space with the pothole, a recess and an annular groove both defined in a  
18 wall of the circular space. The clutch includes two claws put in the  
19 recess and a spring put between the claws. Each of the claws includes a  
20 toothed face, a first rod and a second rod. The claws can easily enter the  
21 recess since the first rods can move through the channel. A controller is  
22 put rotationally in the pothole for moving the rods. The gear is put in  
23 the circular space. The gear includes a toothed face for engagement  
24 with the toothed face of one of the claws. The second rods of the claws  
25 can impinge each other in order to push one of the claws from the annular

1 gear. The C-ring includes an external edge put in the annular groove, an  
2 internal edge for retaining the annular gear in the circular space and a gate  
3 projecting from an upper face for blocking the channel.

4

5 Other objects, advantages and novel features of the invention will become  
6 more apparent from the following detailed description in conjunction  
7 with the attached drawings.

8

9 **Brief Description of Drawings**

10 The present invention will be described via detailed illustration of the  
11 preferred embodiment referring to the drawings.

12

13 Figure 1 is a perspective view of an anti-gridlock wrench according to the  
14 preferred embodiment of the present invention.

15

16 Figure 2 is an exploded view of the anti-gridlock wrench of Figure 1.

17

18 Figure 3~5 are cross-sectional views of the anti-gridlock of Figure 1.

19

20 **Detailed Description of Preferred Embodiment**

21 Referring to Figures 1~3, according to the preferred embodiment of the  
22 present invention, an anti-gridlock wrench 1 includes a handle 10, an  
23 annular gear 20, a clutch 30 and a controller 40.

24

25 The handle 10 includes an annular head 11 and a grip (not numbered)

1 extending from the annular head 11.

2

3 The annular head 11 defines a space 12 and a pothole 13. The space 12  
4 is in the form of a large circle. The pothole 13 is in the form of a small  
5 circle not overlapping the large circle. The space 12 is communicated  
6 with the pothole 13 through a channel 15. An arched recess 14 and an  
7 annular groove 16 are defined in the wall of the space 12. The arched  
8 recess 14 is communicated with the pothole 13. A hole 17 is defined in  
9 the bottom of the pothole 13.

10

11 The clutch 30 is put in the arched recess 14. The clutch 30 includes two  
12 claws 31 and a spring 32 between the claws 31. For the convenience of  
13 description, the claws 31 may be referred to the “upper” and “lower”  
14 claws 31 as shown in Figures 3~5. Each of the claws 31 includes a  
15 toothed face 33, a first rod 34 and a second rod 35. The claws 31 can be  
16 put into the arched recess 14 since the rods 34 can be moved through the  
17 channel 15. The first rods 34 of the claws 31 extend parallel to each  
18 other. The second rods 35 of the claws 31 extend towards each other.  
19 The second rod 35 of each of the claws 31 is fit in an end of the spring 32  
20 so that the spring 32 is kept between the claws 31. Another and the  
21 most important feature of the second rods 35 of the claws 31 will be  
22 described referring to Figure 5.

23

24 A positioning device including a spring 18 and a ball detent 19 is put in  
25 the hole 17.

1 The controller 40 is put in the pothole 13. The controller 40 includes a  
2 disc 41 and a C-ring 42. The disc 41 includes an arched recess 43 and  
3 two recesses 44 all defined in a lower face. The rods 34 are put in the  
4 arched recess 43. The arched recess 43 includes two opposite walls for  
5 contact with the rods 42. The ball detent 19 can be put in one of the  
6 recesses 44. A ridge 45 is formed on an upper face of the disc 41. The  
7 disc 41 defines an annular groove 46 so as to receive an internal edge of  
8 the C-ring 42. The wall of the pothole 13 defines an annular groove 47  
9 so as to receive an external edge of the C-ring 42.

10

11 The annular gear 20 is put in the space 12. The annular gear 20 includes  
12 a toothed internal face (not numbered) for engagement with a nut or a  
13 head of a bolt and a toothed external face 22 for engagement with the  
14 toothed face 33 of the upper or lower claw 31.

15

16 A C-ring 21 includes a gate 23 projecting from an upper face. The  
17 C-ring 21 includes an external edge put in the annular groove 16 and an  
18 internal edge for retaining the annular gear 20 in the space 12. The  
19 channel 15 is shut by means of the gate 23.

20

21 Figure 4 shows the anti-gridlock wrench 1 in a position where the handle  
22 should drive the annular gear 20 only clockwise, i.e., the handle 10  
23 should not drive the annular gear counterclockwise. When the handle  
24 10 is pivoted counterclockwise as indicated by means of an arrowhead in  
25 Figure 4, the wall of the arched recess 43 is moved from the upper claw

1 31 so as to allow disengagement of the toothed face 33 of the upper claw  
2 31 from the toothed face 22 of the annular gear 20.

3

4 However, as shown in Figure 5, the toothed face 33 of the upper claw 31  
5 may stick to the toothed face 22 of the annular gear 20 due to dirt, grease  
6 or rust, and this is not desired. Fortunately, the second rod 35 of the  
7 lower claw 31 impinges the second rod 35 of the upper claw 31, thus  
8 disengaging the upper claw 31 from the annular gear 20. Thus, the  
9 second rods 35 of the claws 31 of the clutch 30 of the present invention  
10 advantageously ensure smooth operation of the anti-gridlock wrench 1.

11

12 The present invention has been described via detailed illustration of the  
13 preferred embodiment. Those skilled in the art can derive variations  
14 from the preferred embodiment without departing from the scope of the  
15 present invention. Therefore, the preferred embodiment shall not limit  
16 the scope of the present invention defined in the claims.

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